

occurred. From the positions of the snake and the bird it appears probable that the snake hurled itself at the bird, seized it by the chest and rolled it over coiling itself round it as it did so.

This is the third time I have found *Eryx conicus* attacking birds. On the two other occasions they were in the first instance a hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) and in the second a habbler (*Crateropus canorus*). In both these cases the snake had succeeded in killing the bird. *Eryx conicus* evidently lives partly on ground feeding birds.

G. A. LEVETT-YEATS, I.S.O.

GHAZIPUR, U. P., 19th July 1914.

No. XXX.—ON THE BREEDING HABITS OF *ERYX CONICUS*.

A snake was killed in the Prison Garden a few days ago, on the 10th of June, in the morning, and whilst a convict was bringing it to the gate from the garden (about 200 yards), he saw a young one coming through the vent opening of the snake. He pulled it out and he saw another in the opening and pulled that out too, till five young ones were pulled out. They were all dead, the convict says, and showed no movement when brought out. The snake on being seen turned out to be a typical *Eryx conicus*, 28 inches long with a 2" tail, and the young ones measured 7 inches to 8 inches. The snake was dissected and three mature young ones were seen lying inside, one near the vent opening. I could not make out any eggs. Being a viviparous snake, it was stitched up leaving the young ones *in situ* just as they were without moving them, so that it could be sent on to you as it was.

Major Wall has an article on *Eryx conicus* in the Society Journal, Vol. XXI, No. 1 (31st October 1911).

There he has said that it is not known whether the snake is oviparous or viviparous and that he had found eggs in a gravid female killed in December. This specimen is certainly viviparous and interesting in that it may help in the knowledge of the breeding of the species.

I will forward the snake to you in a few days as soon as it is well preserved in spirit.

K. G. GHARPUREY, CAPT., I.M.S.

DHULIA, W. KHANDESH,

14th June 1914.

No. XXXI.—A REMARKABLE SPECIMEN OF THE WART SNAKE,  
*CHERSYDRUS GRANULATUS*.

A fine example of this curious snake has been recently acquired by our Society from Bangkok, Siam. Mr. Boulenger in his Catalogue gives the length of the species as 1,000 millimeters (39 inches). The specimen now referred to measures 4 feet 4 inches, has a maximum girth of  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and weighs 4 pounds! Such a fine specimen gives one special facilities for studying its very curious scales. These are much broader than long, and about 160 in the neck, and about 138 at the greatest girth. Each scale is diamond-shaped, and presents three strong keels, which end in free points posteriorly. The median keel is the most prominent. None reach the edge of the scales either basally or terminally. These keels give a very harsh rasp-like feel to the skin. There are no enlarged shields on the head, the only modified shields being a horseshoe like rostral, and quoit-like shield around each nostril. There is no enlarged anal shield. The anus is a somewhat rectangular aperture. The teeth in the maxilla number 22.

F. WALL, MAJOR, I.M.S., F.L.S.

ALMORA, U.P., June 1914.